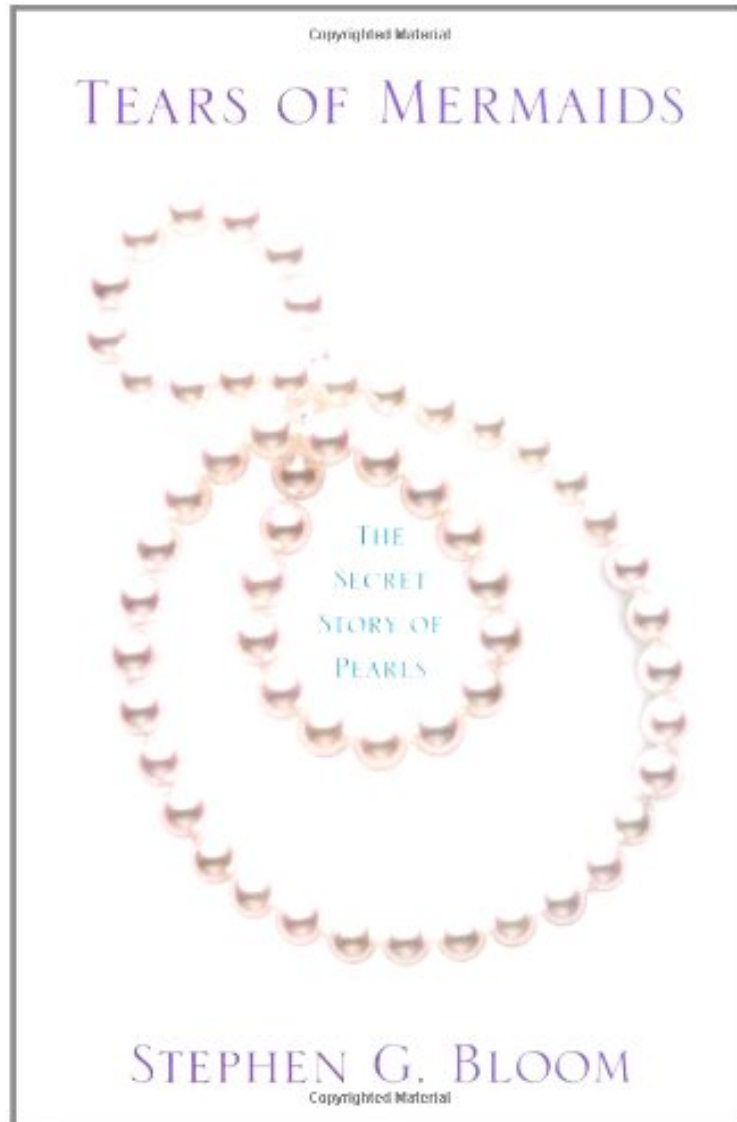


Tears of Mermaids: The Secret Story of Pearls

Stephen G. Bloom

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Stephen G. Bloom : Tears of Mermaids: The Secret Story of Pearls before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tears of Mermaids: The Secret Story of Pearls:

For Tears of Mermaids, Stephen G. Bloom traveled 30,000 miles to trace a single pearl—from the moment a diver off the coast of Australia scoops from the ocean floor an oyster containing a single luminescent pearl to the instant a

woman on the other side of the world fastens the clasp of a strand containing the same orb. Bloom chronicles the never-before-told saga of the global pearl trade by gaining access to clandestine outposts in Japan, China, the Philippines, French Polynesia and Australia. Bloom infiltrates high-tech pearl farms and processing facilities guarded by gun-toting sentries, and insinuates himself into the lives of powerful international pearl lords. Bloom farms for pearls in rural China, goes behind scenes at million-dollar auctions in Hong Kong, trails pearl brokers and Internet entrepreneurs in Asia, hires himself out as a deckhand on an Australian pearling vessel, and goes backstage at Christie's for a fast and furious auction of the most expensive pearl ever sold. Teeming with rogue humor and uncanny intelligence, *Tears of Mermaids* weaves a nonstop detective story of the world's most enduring gem.